

REMARKS

Claims 1-29, 33-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 50-53 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-29, 33-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 50-53 have been rejected.

Claims 1-29, 33-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 50-53 are canceled.

Claims 56-87 are added.

Applicants have canceled claims in order to clarify the issues for prosecution. By these cancellations, Applicants do not concede that the cited art is prior to any invention now or previously claimed. Applicants further reserve the right to pursue the original versions of the claims in the future, for example, in a continuing application.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-29, 33-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 50-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gottlob et al., “Extending Object-Oriented Systems with Roles” (“Gottlob”). As indicated above, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-29, 33-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 50-53. In light of these cancellations, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to these claims have been rendered moot.

Applicants have also added Claims 56-87. Independent Claims 56, 64, 72 and 80 contain limitations of substantially the following form:

associating an item with a class, wherein

the class comprises associated attributes that describe members of the class, and

said associating the item comprises selecting the class such that each associated attribute has a non-null value in describing the item;

storing a first record associating the item with the selected class; and
storing a second record associating the item with each associated attribute
of the class and a value of the attribute describing the item.

See, e.g., Claim 56. Applicants respectfully submit that Gottlob fails to provide disclosure of these limitations and therefore cannot anticipate the claims. As an initial matter, Applicants submit that Gottlob does not provide disclosure of the two “storing” limitations. Applicants submit that Gottlob is merely concerned with disclosure of purported class hierarchies themselves and is not concerned with storing item associations, and therefore cannot provide disclosure of at least the storing limitations. Nor does Gottlob anticipate structures for storing the associations of the item with a class or attributes of the class, as claimed.

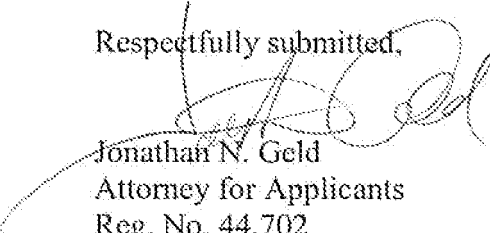
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 56-87 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner’s consideration of these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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